

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUPREME COURT TO HOLD MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JUSTICE SEYMOUR F. SIMON

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Supreme Court will hold a memorial service in honor of the late Justice Seymour F. Simon on Wednesday, May 23 at 2 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Supreme Court Building in Springfield.

Chief Justice Robert R. Thomas, Justices Thomas R. Fitzgerald and Anne M. Burke will give opening remarks.

Retired Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow, lawyer and author Scott Turow and attorney John B. Simon, the late Justice's son, will pay tribute in remarks.

Justice Simon was elected to the Supreme Court in 1980 and served until December 1988 when he resumed the practice of law with the firm now known as DLA Piper Rudnick Gary Cary US LLP. He was a partner in the litigation department at the time of his death on September 26, 2006.

He was a prolific writer and an independent thinker during his tenure on the Supreme Court, authoring 198 majority opinions, 175 dissents and 80 concurring opinions.

He dissented in every death penalty case that came before him on the Court, and his efforts against the death penalty were among the influences in former Gov. George Ryan's decision to commute all death sentences in Illinois.

Justice Simon's election to the Supreme Court capped a long and distinguished career in public service.

Seymour F. Simon was born in Chicago on August 10, 1915. He graduated from Northwestern University with a B.S. degree and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He earned a J.D. degree from Northwestern University School of Law, where he was elected to Order of the Coif and was first in his graduating class. He was admitted to the bar the same year, in 1938.

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He was an attorney in the antitrust division of the U.S. Department of Justice until 1942. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Justice Simon engaged in the private practice of law in Chicago from 1946 to 1974. He was alderman of Chicago's 40th ward from 1955-61, when he was appointed to the Cook County Board. He served as president of the Cook County Board from 1962 to 1966 and was a member of the Chicago Public Building Commission from 1961 to 1967.

Justice Simon was re-elected to the Chicago City Council in 1967 and continued in that office until 1974 when he was elected Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court.

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**(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the
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